



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
107 ARMY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310-0107

Office, Chief Information Officer/G-6

AUG 15 2006

NETC-EST-P

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Army Establishes Army Golden Master (AGM) as the Standard Source for Common Operating System Baseline Configurations

1. The purpose of this memorandum is to establish a single authority within the US Army to define standard baseline configurations for common operating systems and applications. Network Enterprise Technology Command's (NETCOM) Enterprise Systems Technology Activity (ESTA) is responsible for developing the standard baseline configuration and distributing this configuration via the Army Golden Master (AGM). This memorandum establishes suspense dates for implementing the AGM standard baseline configuration (para 2). This memorandum also establishes a suspense date for including the AGM standard baseline configuration in all new desktop/laptop procurements (para 7). The appointment establishes a single authority to define baseline configurations, thereby reducing support requirements, eliminating conflicts between various configurations, and reducing risks to the Army's infrastructure.
2. Effective immediately, all Army organizations will begin transitioning their Windows-based desktop/laptop common-user environment to the AGM standard baseline configuration. Implementation must be completed within 6 months of date on this memorandum. Non-compliant systems risk being removed from the LandWarNet. To assist in this transition, ESTA released version 5.0 of the AGM in February 2006 and will release version 6.0 in August 2006. Both AGM versions 5.0 and 6.0 are based on the Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA) Gold Standard for Microsoft (MS) XP Professional and the Windows 2000/XP/2003 Addendum version 5.0. Both AGM versions 5.0 and 6.0 support MS XP Professional with Service Pack 2 and Windows Server 2003 Service Pack 1. This memorandum does not restrict the use of alternate Army-approved operating systems.
3. This policy applies to the Sensitive but Unclassified (SBU) environment including stand-alone desktops/laptops not connected to the Army Enterprise Infostructure (AEI). At this time, the AGM is not required in the classified environment. When defining the enterprise application list ESTA uses the Army MS Enterprise License Agreement (MS ELA) enhanced desktop CLIN (C1001AA) and other applications with enterprise licensing agreements. The requirement to implement the AGM baseline is **not** limited to Army MS ELA participants. Organizations with valid licenses for AGM delivered software obtained through other approved sources are required to use the AGM baseline configuration by using the AGM release media.

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4. The AGM standard baseline configuration is purposely restrictive and may impact existing network, application, and system functionality. All Army organizations should establish a process to review the AGM baseline configuration for both MS XP SP2 following each AGM release. The AGM Program points of contact listed below can provide assistance to organizations.

5. ESTA recognizes there are unique operational or security requirements. Organizations are not authorized to modify the baseline configuration without first submitting a waiver request to ESTA and obtaining approval to introduce functional deviations to the AGM baseline configuration. See para 8 for details of where to obtain waiver information. The organization's Information Assurance program manager is responsible for ensuring any unique operational or security requirements are implemented in accordance with current Army security guidelines.

6. The AGM supports several deployment and management strategies that leverage existing Active Directory (AD) and other enterprise tools to assist organizations in transitioning to the AGM standard baseline configuration. For example, ESTA is developing deployment guidance based upon AD Group Policy Objects (GPO) that can assist in a transition process to apply the AGM configuration to XP SP2 platforms within existing Active Directory environments. See para 8 for where to obtain AGM deployment and management information.

7. The AGM desktop/laptop standard baseline configuration is currently available as a baseline install from several hardware vendors and resellers. The AGM 5.0 configuration was included on the platforms defined by the Army Small Computer Program March 2005 Consolidated Buy Program at no additional cost. The September consolidated buy will incorporate the AGM 6.0 configuration. Effective immediately upon signature of this memorandum all Army organizations will ensure that all newly procured desktop/laptop platforms include a default AGM baseline configuration installed by the hardware vendor.

8. ESTA has established an Army Knowledge Collaboration Center (AKCC) and an AGM Community Webpage on Army Knowledge On-line (AKO) to provide notifications and information related to the AGM. It is important to note that this site will host information related to variations and deviations from security standards (para 2), which will be mandatory for safe and successful implementation of the AGM builds. Within 30 days from release of this memo, the AGM KCC will provide instructions for submitting waivers. The AGM KCC and WebPages are located at the following URLs: <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/kc/934255> and <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/130061>. AKO credentials are required to log in and a subscription is required on the KCC.

9. The compliance reporting process will be released under separate memorandum within 60 days. The AGM includes operating system registry settings that will enable easy tracking of AGM desktops/laptops through various types of network scans.

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10. The ESTA lead for the AGM effort is Amy Harding, COM 703 602 3286, email: amy.harding@hqda.army.mil. Technical points of contact are Cade King\CSC, COM 520-538-6671 or DSN 879-6671, email: cade.king@us.army.mil and James Carter\Signal Solutions, COM 520-538-7441 or DSN 879-7441, email: james.luther.carter@us.army.mil. The AGM_Support@netcom.army.mil email address has been established to support submission of issues or support requests.



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